

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 18-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 and 18-29 are rejected. Claims 1, 18 and 24 have been amended.

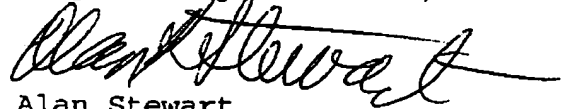
Claims 1 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. The claims have been amended and are now believed to be allowable under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claim has been amended and is now believed to be allowable. Claims 19-23 depend from claim 18 and are now believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-10 and 24-29 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maru. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include "...cross over from ... maximum positive value to ... maximum negative value is avoided ...". The references of record do not show, teach, or suggest the above recited limitations of claims 1 and 24. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1. Claims 25-29 depend from claim 24. Therefore, claims 1-10 and 24-29 are believed to be allowable.

It is believed that the above remarks and amendments are fully responsive to the Official Action. Reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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